

**Study Session
Minutes
March 7, 2003
Sterling Meadow Apts.
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

Commissioners present: Diana Avalos, Yvonne Lopez-Morton
Commissioners late: Becky Diaz 2:15, Leo Gaeta 2:30, Alice Castilleja Lara 2:30, Gabriel Banfi 2:45, Edward Davila 3:00pm.
Commissioners absent: Mario Reyes
Staff present: Antonio Ginatta and Vita Echeverria
Invited guests: Michelle Danley, Public Liaison from Governor's office and Omar Ojeda, Northwest Justice Project, Bellingham.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee:

Three candidates from the Tri-Cities area will be recommended to the Governor's office. The candidates will be forwarded at the public meeting on Saturday (without revealing names). Recruitment for Olympia will also be expanded to Mason County.

2003/2004 Meeting Locations Committee:

Diana – Wanted to know why the meeting was changed from Monroe to Mount Vernon.
Antonio – Without a commissioner in Monroe area, the CHA decided to change it.
Edward - Proposed to have the September 2003 meeting in the Burien/White Center area.
Gabriel – Proposed to changing the Tacoma meeting to Bellevue.
Mario was willing to work on the Brewster meeting even though he would no longer be on the commission at that time.
Commissioners will take a formal vote about the meeting dates at public meeting.

Administrative Policies Committee:

Final changes on the approved policies were introduced. If a commissioner has a question about the Policies and wants to make a change they can submit a written amendment at a public meeting.

Michelle – Suggested that the commission send a copy of administrative policies to the governor's office and Mary Ann McCurdy in Spokane.

Unfinished Business

Legislative update:

Antonio - Briefly reviewed the bill report document that he handed out to the commissioners.

Leo - Mentioned that due to budget cuts there is a proposal to have the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises disbanded and to have its responsibilities shared by GA, CTED, and the Human Rights Commission.

Edward - Said that the bill report document would be more valuable if it had the names of legislators, their districts, and contact information for their offices. If the Commission is getting this info to the communities then it should make it rather easy for them to access the information. As they are focusing on those issues they should work on networking. Maybe it would be useful to have a weekly mailing to the commissioner about legislation.

Antonio – If no action taken on SB 5696 (drivers' licenses and legal presence) by Monday, March 10th, the bill will be considered dead

Leo - Next year commissioners should be asked to step up to the plate and work on an issue and possibly get in to testify, since next year the Commission will have less staff.

Antonio - Will try to get Gabriela Quintana from Casa Latina to come in and train the commission on how to testify. In the future the Commission will coordinate some trainings into the study sessions.

Michelle Danley - Made a suggestion to find out what the governor's policies are on testifying. She stated that it would be best to keep good communication with the Governor because he does not like surprises.

Antonio - Proposed that someone call Rep. Helen Sommers the chair of the House Appropriations Committee regarding conditional scholarships for bilingual teachers. Diana will call Antonio to talk about getting some Vancouver School teachers to make the calls.

Antonio -Spoke about the blood monitoring bill regarding farmworkers (pesticide mixers) that are using pesticides. Omar gave his thoughts on the problems with this bill as well.

Antonio – Prepared the letters of appreciation for commissioners and will distribute to those who requested them.

Joint Legislative Reception:

Yvonne - The legislative agendas are very common why can't we unite and work on the same issues.

Alice - Having a whole day event is best so that they spend more time with the other commissioners.

Leo - Would like to appoint two commissioners to work with the other commissions to organize the reception.

Edward - Proposed that by July they should decide what top 10 issues they want to work on and then get the three commissions to meet and discuss the legislative reception.

Proposed new schedule for 2004 Olympia meeting:

Legislative Reception - Thursday

Joint Study Session – Friday

Public Meeting - Friday evening

No CHA study session for that meeting, possibly held as a conference call the week before.

Antonio said that if they wanted the reception to take place that CHA would have to take the lead again.

Michelle Danley - Public Liaison from Governor's office: Began by telling the commissioners that she assists in getting the Governor scheduled into events for the counties that she is assigned to. She represents the Governor in those communities when he is not available and she resolves constituent complaints.

Spoke highly about Mario's involvement at the event that took place at the Wenatchee Community Center and was glad to see that the Governor was invited to it.

New Business

Yvonne – Announce the recruitment efforts of a board member position at the college. Would like to see or recommend minorities to the board member positions at higher education boards

Invite Dianne Prigge from Governor's office at the next study session to talk about boards and commissions.

Basic Health:

Leo - Said that there are many adult workers on limited income jobs and cannot afford medical insurance. We may want to consider methods to improve BHP so that less slots get eliminated – maybe lower the financial maximum for eligibility.

Edward - Stated that maybe it would be a good idea to take a look at the priorities first and then strategize.

Small business development and access to government contracting:

Edward – Spoke about a grant that the Highline Community College received. He would like each of the Minority Commissions to have a representative to work with the college on small business development issues.

Diana and Becky are interested in being CHA's representatives. They would like to extend an invitation to the Hispanic Chambers of Commerce.

Vita needs to set up a conference call between Diana, Becky and Antonio to talk about the planning.

Alice – Asked how they could work on getting some of the student educated on citizenship and how to get them to get their citizenship.

Edward will be attending the Inaugural Northwest Conference in Seattle on March 28-30.

Executive Session:

Leo – The commission will forward four priority items to the Governor's office: racial profiling, farmworker housing, and education.

Personnel issues were discussed so staff was asked to leave.

Adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

TO DO:

1. Send administrative policies to Michelle, Governor's office, and Mary Ann McCurdy.
2. Antonio will invite Diane Prigge to our next study session.
3. Yvonne and Antonio will further discuss diversifying Board of Trustees for Washington universities.
4. Vita will set up a conference call between Antonio, Becky, and Diana re small business development issues.
5. Alice and Antonio will discuss citizenship classes issue.
6. Antonio will send priority list to Governor's office.